

DRAFT

MINUTES

Waterworks Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 19, 2002
Meeting Location: VDH-Division of Drinking Water -
Culpeper Field Office, Culpeper, VA

Committee Members (or representatives) present: See the attached attendance log

Others Present:

Hugh Eggborn, P.E., VDH
Mark Tufaro, SCC

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Ray Jackson, Chair, with Tom Gray as Secretary.

The minutes of July 18, 2002 were unanimously adopted as written.

Chair Report

The WAC Annual Report was presented to Commissioner Stroube by Ray Jackson, Jesse Royall and Melvin Collins. They stated that the Commissioner was aware of the issues. Discussion highlighted the many programs the Commissioner must oversee and questioned how many things can or will be championed.

Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act information was given to the WAC in August. Charles Jeckell stated that VSPE had a committee on this. The Association of General Contractors were initially concerned with the Act but now are satisfied. Jesse Royall said that a similar activity in Maryland helped with School seats. Some Virginia localities may use the infrastructure part to get developers to fund drinking water and wastewater expansions.

Commissioner Stroube – participated by telephone

He discussed dramatic budget cuts of 7-15% were in the works but up to 25% may be needed. No specifics could be discussed as the Governor was trying to make decisions within 2 or 3 weeks.

The reorganization discussion related to moving the Division of Drinking Water into DEQ appear unrelated to the budget. Apparently there is a belief that water issues are scattered through state government. There is lots of talk about consolidating smaller agencies and administrative functions.

Dr. Stroube faxed to the meeting a September 13, 2002 letter (attached) from Secretary Sandra Bowen responding to Dr. Stroube's August letter expressing concerns over DCLS charges for drinking water analysis. Jesse Royall expressed concern that the September 13, 2002 letter did not address cost impact on the Division of Drinking Water. Dr. Stroube stated he will call the Secretary and explain that concern.

Discussion on the reorganization of the Division of Drinking Water into DEQ was as follows: Jesse Royall stated that the philosophy is different – environment versus people needs. Jesse Royall does not favor moving the drinking water program into DEQ. Ray Jackson expressed disbelief that reorganization and budget could be separate issues.

Ray Jackson asked about the status of the development of a Water Policy. Dr. Stroube said that the State Water Commission, VDH and DEQ would be working on it. VDH would develop material on drinking water, DEQ any other areas, and then blend those approaches with the State Water Commission. Ray Jackson asked if Dr. Stroube would be presenting information to the State Water Commission at their October 1st meeting. Dr. Stroube will ask Marty Farber at Legislative Services.

With no more questions, Dr. Stroube's phone call was ended with the WAC giving him their appreciation for his participation in the meeting.

DCLS Charges

The WAC further discussed the September 13, 2002 letter from Secretary Bowen. Cost shifting (to VDH) and compliance sampling was not addressed. More courier sites are enabling more PWSs to do business with DCLS. Some waterworks have seen their administrative costs increase. Hugh Eggborn has seen a 3-fold increase in monitoring violations. It may have been higher but for the large amount of time spent by Drinking Water staff working with PWSs.

Future Concerns

Arsenic standards will be reflected in Consumer Confidence Reports next spring. More information can be found at West Virginia University www.ndwc.wvu.edu or 1-800-624-8301 for the "On Tap" publication.

LTIESITR is effective with large waterworks compliant by July 2003.

Water Policy Update

Dr. Stroube discussed this earlier. The State Water Commission/Governor Warner Administration are jointly addressing policy development. The WAC discussed offering WAC's assistance to the effort. Motion was made and approved that a letter would be drafted offering WAC's assistance.

Drought

The WAC discussed Ray Jackson's July 29, 2002 letter to Dr. Stroube regarding conservation and emergency planning statewide. 2,200 replacement wells have been permitted. Hugh Eggborn stated that several reports are being provided to the Division of Drinking Water's headquarters: (1) weekly update for Drought Management Task Force related to raw water levels, (2) Executive Order 33 on conservation – a weekly report is done to track effectiveness of conservation at PWSs >10,000 in population, (3) a monthly report on conservation for PWSs 3,300-10,000 in population.

The WAC discussed that Commissioner Stroube needs to be more active. Discussion related to the Commissioner having too much to handle. The Division of Drinking Water needs to be elevated to a higher level so as to place it in a better position to help the water industry. It needs to be empowered. Now is the time for something to be done. Need new agency just to carry drinking water issues.

Security

Hugh Eggborn presented information on behalf of Mark Anderson - \$115,000 grants were made to large PWSs. Software developed for the wastewater industry is being modified for drinking water and VDH will be purchasing laptop computers on which to do training workshops. This training would be free.

Legislative Update

Federal – see handout from AWWA.

State – discussed VDH “proposed legislated initiatives”. Ray Jackson had a negative response to the two proposals that were strawmen. However WAC discussions indicated most favored requiring water conservation plans, water audits and receiverships. Many PWSs do not have ordinances to enforce conservation. The other proposals received some position discussion and are to be discussed further, especially in spring 2003 before next year’s planning for proposed legislation.

VDH

Strategic Plan – The Division of Drinking Water is implementing its plan and is just under 50% in completing it.

DWSRF’s draft Intended Use Plan was discussed. It was hoped that budget cuts would not affect it. A public meeting will be held in Richmond on October 3, 2002.

Operation Permit Fees – the normal status report was handed out (attached). Discussion involved account balances and fees as a percentage (the largest) of the Division of Drinking Water’s budget.

DEQ

No DEQ representative was available.

DCLS

Tom York reported that Drinking Water Analysis fees exceeded expenses so far in the first quarter and they experienced a drop in workload. Emergency service work is still being done.

DHCD

Elizabeth Boehringer stated that the Department will propose a “Dry Well Replacement Fund” in its next budget; it will allocate \$500,000, and will focus on low to medium income households.

SCC

Marc Tufaro reported that 74 PWSs have come in asking for rate increases. Usually there are about 7 per year. The increased number is because of increased compliance costs and sample analysis charges.

Other

Certain Members terms are up and all 5 are willing to serve again.

Next Meeting

November 21, 2002, in Richmond with Jesse Royall as host at Sydnor's offices.

Note: Tom York mentioned on May 5, 2003 that DCLS is to move into new buildings on 5th Street and he offered to host the meeting and give a tour.

With no further business, it was motioned and unanimously carried to adjourn at 2:13 p.m.

Thomas B. Gray, Secretary

Ray Jackson, Chair

WATERWORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDANCE REPORT

x = present

o = absent

= substitute sent

Year: 2002

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Meeting</u>				
		<u>Jan</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>Nov</u>
AWWA	Ray A. Jackson	x	x	x	o	x
VWWA	Gary F. Burner	x	o	o	x	x
CEC	Edwin G. Snyder	x	o	o	o	o
Faculty	Gary S. Schaffran	o	o	x	o	x
Water Operator Class I	Melvin Collins (started Sept).	x	x	o	x	x
VSPE	Charles J. Jeckell	x	x	o	x	x
Community Waterworks Owner	Jesse L. Royall, Jr.	x	x	x	x	x
NTNC Representative	Robert J. Robinson	o	o	x	x	o
VRWA	Elmer Handy (Started in November)	x	x	x	x	x
SE/RCAP	Mary Terry	x	x	o	x	o
VML	Bob Benninger	x	x	o	o	x
VACO	Nelson Reid	x	o	x	x	x
Citizen	Marsha Parkinson (Started in November)	x	x	o	x	x
Ex-Offico Members:						
Director, Office of Environmental Health Services (VDH) Robert W. Hicks		o	o	o	o	o
Director, Div. of Consolidated Laboratory Services, Dept. of General Services Representative: Tom York (Substitute: Ed Shaw)		#	x	#	#	x
Director, Division of Drinking Water (VDH) Robert B. Taylor (effective Dec. 25, 1999)		x	#	#	x	o
Dept. of Environmental Quality Representative: Larry G. Lawson, Director, Office of Water Resource Management		x	#	o	o	o
Dept. of Housing & Community Development Representative: Elizabeth Boehringer (effective Jan. 1, 2001)		x	x	o	o	x
State Corporation Commission	John Stevens (Substitute: Marc Tufaro)	#	#	#	#	#
VWEF	Herb Dawson	x	x	o	o	x
WAC Secretary: Thomas B. Gray		x	x	#	o	x